



Calibration method for carrying out multiport

~~measurements on semiconductor wafers~~ **CALIBRATION METHOD FOR CARRYING**

OUT MULTIPORT

MEASUREMENTS ON SEMICONDUCTOR WAFERS

5

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This invention claims priority from German Patent Application No. 103 14 463.3, filed
March 28, 2003.

10 **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to a method for calibrating a vectorial network ~~analyser~~ analyzer
having n measurement ports and at least $2n$ measurement locations ($n > 1$) by successive
measurement of the reflection and transmission parameters at different two-port calibration
standards, which are connected between the measurement ports in any desired order and must all
15 have a transmission path, and three different n -port calibration standards, which are connected
between the measurement ports in any desired order and which are not permitted to show
transmission.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 Vectorial network ~~analysers~~ analyzers (VNA VNAs) serve for the precise measurement
of electronic devices and components and also active and passive radiofrequency circuits and
assemblies through to antennas.

The so-called scattering parameters of n -ports ($n = 1, 2, \dots$) are detected, which, if appropriate, are converted into $2n$ -pol-parameters (e.g., Z or Y parameters).

A so-called system error correction provides for the actual possibility of carrying out precise measurements using VNAs. In modern apparatuses, the measurement accuracy of VNAs is influenced almost exclusively by the possibility of realizing the calibration standards required for the system error correction.

As it is known, the reflection and/or transmission ~~behaviour~~ behavior of calibration standards, which are partly or completely known objects, is measured during the system error correction in the so-called calibration operation, at several measurement locations which are to optimize in position and amount.

From these measured values, correction data (so-called error variables or coefficients) are obtained by means of special computation methods. With ~~these~~ this correction data and a corresponding correction calculation, measured values from which system errors of the VNA and of the leads (instances of coupling = crosstalk, mismatches = reflections) have been eliminated are obtained for any desired measurement object.

The customary form of description of the electrical ~~behaviour~~ behavior of components and circuits in radiofrequency technology is effected by means of the scattering parameters (also called S parameters). They link wave variables with one another, rather than ~~current~~ currents and voltages. This representation is particularly adapted to the physical conditions.

The following relationship applies to—, for instance—, waves a_1 and a_2 running up to a two-port and the waves b_1 and b_2 , which are respectively continuing in the opposite direction:

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} \end{pmatrix}}_{=[S]} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

wherein [S] ~~shall be~~ is the scattering matrix identifying the two-port.

One known calibration method for a two-port model with 10 or 12 error variables is the so-called 10-term or 12-term method. It is also referred to as SOLT (S: Short, O: Open, L: Load
 5 = Match, T: Thru) in the American literature and as TMSO in Europe. It is the only system calibration method for two-port network ~~analysers~~ analyzers with just three measurement locations, wherein each measurement location is located at the common measurement channel for both ports before the switch which switches each time one of the ports for measurement, and further measurement locations, which are arranged at the measurement channel of each port. But
 10 in this arrangement of the measurement locations, the switch is integrated in the measurement of the calibration standards.

In the case of this TMSO calibration method, which is used the most often in practice, it is necessary ~~first of all~~ for the two measurement ports to be connected (T = Thru). Three known one-ports, e.g. wave sink (M = Match), ~~Short~~ short circuit (S = Short) and open circuit (O =
 15 Open), then have to be contact-connected and measured at each measurement port.

The multiport measurement problem ~~consists in~~ stems from the fact that all the measurement ports are coupled to one another via the measurement object. This means that it is no longer the case that a measure of the incoming wave is obtained at one measurement location, a measure of the reflective wave is obtained at the next measurement location, and a measure of
 20 the transmitted wave is finally obtained at a further measurement location, independent of the

terminations of the multiport. ~~Rather, rather it is necessary~~ additionally necessary to take into
account of the reflection properties of the other measurement ports in the model.

PRIOR ART

5 In recent years, a number of solutions have been published and patented for this multiport
measurement problem. The solution to the multiport measurement problem Ferrero, described in
Ferrero, Pisani, Kerwin, "A New Implementation of a Multiport Automatic Network Analyzer",
IEEE Trans. Microwave Theory Tech., vol. 40, Nov. 1992, pp. 2078-2085, requires ~~an~~ a network
~~analyser~~ analyzer with likewise $2n$ measurement locations with the same outlay on calibration
10 standards as the TMSO method. Accordingly, the requirements made of the hardware of the
calibration standards are ~~considerably~~ very complex. Likewise, all the calibration standards have
to be completely known in Ferrero's method. This is especially disadvantageous since the
known standards have never been perfectly realized. Furthermore, Ferrero's method is based
exclusively on the 7-term principle, ~~so that~~ resulting in significant measurement errors ~~result in~~
15 ~~that case since completely~~ the known standards ~~cannot be~~ have not been perfectly realized
~~perfectly~~ and the 7-term principle reacts substantially more sensitively to such model errors, as is
described in Heuermann, "Sichere Verfahren zur Kalibrierung von Netzwerkanalysatoren für
koaxiale und planare Leitungssysteme" [Reliable methods for the calibration of network
~~analysers~~ analyzers for coaxial and planar line systems], Dissertation document, Institute for
20 Radiofrequency Technology, Ruhr-University Bochum, 1995, ISBN 3-8265-1495-5.

The 10-term methods ~~according to~~ described in German Patent Application DE 199 18
697 A1 requires just $n+1$ measurement locations but only known calibration standards.

The multiport 7-term methods according to described in German Patent Application DE
199 18 960 A1, which build on an adaptation of the known two-port methods to a multiport
method, comprise the methods TAN, TNA, LAN, TRL, TLR, LLR, LRL, TAR, TMR, TRM,
TMS, LMS, TMO, LMO, UMSO, TMN, LNN, TZU, TZY, TYU, LZY, ZZU, YYU, QSOLT
5 and generally require only $n-1+2$ calibration measurements.

A further method from the company ATM is described in ~~the American~~ United States
Patent Specification ~~US 5578932~~. No. 5,578,932. The patent specification describes in detail a
so-called test set which can be used to extend a 2-port network ~~analyser~~ analyzer to n ports.
Furthermore, a special calibration device is described, which is required for the automatic
10 calibration of the ~~said~~ test set.

The calibration device contains, in addition to the standards open, short and match (also
termination), an arrangement of different transmission lines which can be connected between the
terminals of the calibration device via semiconductor switches. Consequently, as in the TMSO
method, all the standards must be completely known. In contrast to the statement in the
15 Abstract, however, complete multiport calibration and error correction does not take place.
Instead, only two-port paths are calibrated; the remaining ports are not taken into account
(column 18, line 57). Two-port measurements are carried out successively during later
measurement ~~operation~~ operations. In this case, the measurement ports that are not included in
the calibration are successively terminated by different reflection standards incorporated within
20 the test set. Precisely one 2-port measurement is carried out for each value of the reflection
standard (column 21, line 1). Once the measurements have been carried out at all measurement
ports, a result corrected with respect to the systematic errors can be calculated from the measured
values obtained and the known values of the reflection standards. According to the patent

specification, the measurement of a 3-port test object requires 2 two-port measurements from port 1 to port 2 and from port 1 to port 3 (column 21, line 1 and line 45), in which case, for complete characterization of all the parameters, it is necessary to terminate the third port of the test object that was not included, during the measurement from port 1 to port 2, by at least 3

5 different reflection standards (column 21, line 28). This means that the complete characterization of a 3-port requires $3 + 1 = 4$ two-port measurements, while the method presented here manages with 3 two-port measurements.

Moreover, the measurement of electronic devices on a wafer underlies certain boundary conditions especially with regard to the possibility of ~~realisation~~ realization of calibration
10 standards.

In the semiconductor field, it is not unusual for users to realize the calibration standards of the wafers themselves. The geometrical reproducibility and equality of calibration standards that are self-produced in this way is very high. What is also advantageous is that the calibration standards are situated on the same substrate carrier (semiconductor) as the measurement objects,
15 too. In addition to the advantages of short travel distances, it is also possible to “calibrate out” parasitic elements and also transition effects from the measuring tip to the wafer. However, the electrical properties are realized only to a good approximation. The reflection standard open circuit, in particular, cannot be produced with the necessary quality.

Also the impedance standards (M) can be described very precisely on semiconductors,
20 but generally vary ~~very~~ greatly with regard to the DC resistances. In the described methods according to the prior art, it is necessary to connect M standards with an ~~—as far as possible—~~ identical reflection ~~behaviour~~ behavior to each measurement port. If this cannot be ensured, as it is the case in multiport on-wafer measurements since standards have to be arranged at an angle

of 90° with respect to one another, then so-called strains occur, which are generally the source of very large measurement errors.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Therefore, it is an object of the invention to ~~propagate~~ provide a method for calibrating a vectorial network ~~analyser~~ analyzer having n measurement ports and at least 2n measurement locations used for multiport measurement which permits a calibration with increased precision and considerable reproducibility of measurement.

One of the embodiments of the invention will be referred to as the RRMT method. The
10 RRMT method includes a calibration method as follows:

- a) the first k calibration measurements are carried out at a two-port, which is realized by means of the direct connection of the measurement ports (through connection, T = Thru) or a short matched line (L = Line) of known length and attenuation, and which is connected between each of the k possible measurement port combination,
- 15 b) a further calibration measurement is carried out at an n-fold one-port (n-one-port), which is realized by means of n known, if appropriate different, impedances (e.g. so-called wave terminations with 50 Ω , M = Match),
- c) a further calibration measurement is carried out at an n-one-port, which is realized by means of n unknown greatly reflective terminations (R = Reflect), which are similar to
20 short circuits (S = Short),
- d) a further calibration measurement is carried out at an n-one-port, which is realized by means of n unknown greatly reflective terminations (R = Reflect) which are similar to open circuits (O = Open).

~~What is disclosed as the invention is a method for calibration characterized in the calibration measurement according to Claim 1 a) up to d) and The RRMT method may also include a calculation of the reflection accounts of the n one-ports according to Claim 1 e). In the following (???) the method according to Claim 1 shall be called RRMT method. as follows:~~

- 5 e) the reflection accounts of the n-one-ports, which is realized by means of n unknown greatly reflective terminations which are similar to open circuits or to short circuits, are mathematically determined.

The RRMT method is characterized by the measurement of two reflection standards, which are similar to short circuits and to open circuits, in addition to the measurements of n
10 impedance standards at the n-fold one-port. With that, ~~the RRMT method as well as the method according to Claims 2, 3 and 4, and other embodiments of the invention,~~ afford the advantages that the calibration standards do not have to be exactly known. Consequently, the multiport measurements can be carried out with high precision and low costs with these methods by using calibration standards which are produced from the customer. All the methods are characterized
15 by the following ~~criteria~~ criteria of the calibration standards:

1.÷ The phase of the reflection standards R has to be known only to $\pm 90^\circ$. More information is not required. In practice, a real short circuit and an open circuit are used. The divergences to an ideal short circuit or open circuit have no influence on the measurement accuracy.

20 2.÷ The impedance standards M do have to be completely known. The latter may be different, however, in the case of the RRMT method. Such standards are often also referred to as transfer match.

3.÷ The line standard T in the case of RRMT method ~~according to Claims 1 and 2~~ and also the line standard L in the case of LRRM ~~according to Claims 3 and 4~~ has to be completely known, but may have a finite attenuation and, if appropriate, a known reflection ~~behaviour~~ behavior. It is also possible to use different line standards between different measurement ports.

5 The use of the 10-term method for the calculation of the error coefficients of the measured two-port calibration standards and of the scattering matrix is particularly advantageous in combination with other features of RRMT method ~~due to~~ because the 10-term method is less sensitive to model errors.

Another advantage of the RRMT method is that the precision of the measurement is
10 substantially increased ~~compared to the prior art~~ due to the fact that the calibration measurements of n impedance standards are carried out at one n-one-port. Deviations of properties compared to the measured reference port are thus avoided at the so-called matching point ($S_{11} = 0$) where the properties of the M standard are only “overcalculated”. The additional measurements at the n-one-port compared to the measurements at the one-port are not
15 disadvantageous since they proceed fully automatically to a considerable extent in the case of on-wafer measurements and their costs are a small portion of the costs of the system. Moreover, these measurements provide additional information for increasing ~~of~~ the quality of the calibration method.

Also, the RRMT methods and the other methods ~~according to Claims 2 to 4~~ are
20 distinguished by the fact that they all use lines for the connections of the measurement ports. This is a particularly ~~fact in~~ true for on-wafer measurements, in contrast to coaxial measurements, where the measurement ports (on-wafer measuring tips (probes)) cannot be

directly connected. Therefore, it is never possible to use a genuine ~~Thru~~ thru standard in on-wafer methods.

The normal and ~~in~~inevitable fluctuations in known DC impedances do not influence the methods of this invention.

5 When VNAs having $2n$ measurement locations are used, ~~these~~ the methods of the invention operate significantly more precisely and with greater long-term stability compared to VNAs having $n-1$ measurement locations because drift effects of the electronic changeover switches have no influence on the measurement quality.

Another method involves:

- 10 a) the first $n-1$ calibration measurements are carried out at a two-port, which is realized by means of the direct connection of the measurement ports (through connection, T = Thru) or a short matched line ($L = \text{Line}$) of known length and attenuation, and which is connected between a reference measurement port and the remaining ports ($n-1$),
- 15 b) a further calibration measurement is carried out at an n -one-port, which is realized by means of n known, if appropriate different, impedances (e.g. so-called wave terminations 50 ohms, M = Match),
- c) a further calibration measurement is carried out at n -one-port, which is realized by means of n unknown greatly reflective terminations ($R = \text{Reflect}$), which are similar to short circuits ($S = \text{Short}$),
- 20 d) a further calibration measurement is carried out at n -one-port, which is realized by means of an unknown greatly reflective termination ($R = \text{Reflect}$) which are similar to open circuit ($O = \text{Open}$); and

e) the reflection accounts of the n-one-ports, which is realized by means of n unknown greatly reflective terminations which are similar to open circuits or to short circuits, are mathematically determined.

~~Also the This method according to the attributes of Claim 2 makes~~ it possible to use

5 reflection standards which ~~does~~ do not have to exactly known. Moreover, the calibration measurements according to this method are carried out with high precision since the impedance standards are measured at the n-one-port.

~~The This second method according to Claim 2 is particularly used~~ useful for multiport measurements with $n > 2$. That is because the method uses the 7-term method for calculation of error coefficients and a scattering matrix ~~what~~ that reduces the calculational complexity and because the thru-standard is measured between a reference port and other n-1 ports instead of between all combinations of the ports. ~~In the following this This method shall~~ will be ~~called~~ referred to as the multiport-RRMT method or GRRMT method. The increased sensitivity of the 7-term method with regard to the model errors ~~do~~ does not have influence since the measurement of impedance is carried out at n-one-port so that an “overcalculating” is not necessary and because the 7-term method is an optimization of the calculational complexity for these multiports. The described advantages in circuit and in measurement of the RRMT method also characterize the multiport-RRMT method.

~~Alternatively~~ Alternative to the RRMT and GRRMT methods, it is possible that for the multiport measurements with $n > 2$, the calibration measurement ~~according to Claims 1 b) and 2 b)~~ is carried out at ~~an~~ a one-port instead at a n-one-port and the properties of ~~this~~ the impedance at the other n-1 one-ports are calculated from this calibration measurement. These embodiments of the invention ~~in the following~~ shall be called the LRRM method and the GLRRM, or

multiport-LRRM method. In both methods, the calculational complexity and the complexity in circuit and in measurement are optimized with regard to the required precision of measurement.

The four methods ~~which are applied for under Claims 1 to 4~~ in this invention differ in implementation only by nuances, but these nuances can have a significant effect in ~~practise~~

5 practice. The greatest difference is between the RRMT and GRRMT methods ~~under Claims 1 and 2~~ and the multiport LRRM methods ~~under Claims 3 and 4~~. In the multiport LRRM methods, only one match standard is contact-connected at a reference port and measured.

Whereas, both RRMT methods use an impedance standard which is contact-connected and measured at each port and which does not have to equate with any other impedance standard.

10 The difference between the two RRMT and multiport LRRM methods resides in the number of T and L measurements, respectively. The methods ~~according to Claims 1 and 3~~ may also require k measurements, and thus more than required by the methods according to Claim 2 and 4 which requires in addition to n-1 measurements. The methods requiring k measurements ~~according to Claims 1 and 3~~ are in turn distinguished by a greater robustness. Thus, it can be

15 shown, e.g., that the transmission measurement dynamic range in the case of methods ~~1 and 3~~ requiring k measurements corresponds to that of the apparatus. These methods are used when ~~the measurement of the~~ dynamic range of the network ~~analyser~~ analyzer has to be achieved. On the other hand, the methods ~~according to Claims 2 and 4~~ requiring n-1 measurements exhibit a significantly greater sensitivity with regard to small contact-connection errors and

20 incompletenesses in the calibration standards. Consequently, the methods ~~according to 2 and 4~~ requiring n-1 measurements will be used only if the number n of measurement ports is disproportionately large.

With such low demands made of the calibration ~~standard~~ standards, the multiport calibration method according to the invention can also be used ~~excellently~~ for automated calibrations of VNAs in coaxial environments. Algorithms and associated switching networks are already marketed by a number of manufacturers for two-port calibrations. In multiport
5 calibrations, the number of contact-connections of the calibration standards is appreciably larger, which costs time and money and entails greater risks of errors.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be explained in more detail below using an exemplary embodiment.

10 The issued drawings show:

Figure 1 a schematic definition of a scattering matrix and waves entering and leaving at the two-port and

Figure 2 a block diagram of a vectorial three-port network analyzer.

Figure 1 shows two-port characterized by its scattering matrix. The waves a_1 and a_2 are
15 the waves travelling to the two-port and b_1 and b_2 correspondingly the waves propagating in the opposite direction. The following relationship holds true:

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} \end{pmatrix}}_{=S} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The interesting special case of a 3-port network analysis system is illustrated as a block diagram in Figure 2. It can be seen that $2n = 6$ measurement locations (15) are necessary.

20 Figure 2 demonstrates how such a construction is to be realized, and serves as a basis for the description of the multiport methods.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIEMENTS EMBODIMENTS

Figure 2 illustrates how the signal from a-source 17 is conducted via a changeover switch 16, whose properties, e.g., reproducibility, reflection and long-term stability, therefore do not
5 influence the measurement accuracy, onto the three branches 18, 19 and 20. The measurement location 15, assumed to be ideal, in each case ~~take up a measure~~ makes a measurement of the incoming and transmitted waves. All deterministic non-idealities and incompletenesses in the form of mismatches and crosstalk are combined and taken into account in the error matrices 13, 14a and 14b. At the ports 10, 11 and 12, ~~the measurement object~~ 21 (DUT) is connected to the
10 vectorial network ~~analyser~~ analyzer.

The measurement values m_n for the reflection and transmission ~~behaviour~~behavior of realized calibration standards are measured in each switch position at two measurement locations each time. For the RRMT method ~~according to Claim 1~~, there are the thru standards of known length and attenuation which are connected between each possible measurement port
15 combination, the match standards, and the reflection standards which are similar to short and open circuits, all being measured at n-one-port. As far as one of the other methods of the invention is carried out, these measurement values m_n are measured with the features as disclosed in the corresponding ~~Claim~~ claim. The scattering matrix is calculated from these measurement values m_n as is described in the following.

20 The methods can be subdivided into three steps from the a mathematical standpoint:

- 1.÷ so-called self-calibration of the unknown reflection standards;_;
- 2.÷ so-called direct calibration;_; and
- 3.÷ system error correction.

In the first step, the unknown parameters ~~in~~of the calibration standards are calculated.

Trace and determinant properties of mapping matrices are utilized here, as described in

Heuermann, "Sichere Verfahren zur Kalibrierung von Netzwerkanalysatoren für koaxiale und

planare Leitungssysteme", [Reliable methods for the calibration of network ~~analysers~~ analyzers

5 for coaxial and planar line systems], Dissertation document, Institute for Radiofrequency

Technology, Ruhr-University Bochum, 1995, ISBN 3-8265-1495-5. The match calibration

standards are not taken into account with ideal properties ($S_{11} = 0$) in the mathematics. This

has the effect that the resultant equations for calculating the reflection values of the two R

standards are significantly longer. However, these equations do not differ from the customary

10 solutions of self-calibration calculations with regard to the above called unambiguity

considerations for the line, impedance and reflection standards.

In the case of the second step of direct calibration, the error coefficients are calculated.

This is done for the RRMT method ~~according to Claim 1~~ and for the LRRM method ~~according~~

~~to Claim 3~~ using traditional routes of the 10-term methods, as have been described in Schick,

15 "Messsysteme der Hochfrequenztechnik", [Measurement systems of radio frequency technology]

Hüthig-Verlag, Heidelberg, 1984 and Heuermann, "Sichere Verfahren zur Kalibrierung von

Netzwerkanalysatoren für koaxiale und planare Leitungssysteme", [Reliable methods for the

calibration of network ~~analysers~~ analyzers for coaxial and planar line systems], Dissertation

document, Institute for Radiofrequency Technology, Ruhr-University Bochum, 1995, ISBN 3-

20 8265-1495-5. A two-port calibration is carried out for each through connection and the error

coefficients are known for this connection. The route for the treatment of the multiport method

is then described as the third step.

For the methods ~~according to Claims 2 and 4, requiring n-1 measurements~~, routes of the 7-term methods for the calculation of the error coefficients are already described in Heuermann, "Sichere Verfahren zur Kalibrierung von Netzwerkanalysatoren für koaxiale und planare Leitungssysteme", [Reliable methods for the calibration of network ~~analysers~~ analyzers for coaxial and planar line systems], Dissertation document, Institute for Radiofrequency Technology, Ruhr-University Bochum, 1995, ISBN 3-8265-1495-5 for similar two-port methods. The combination of these results of the two-port methods into a multiport method is likewise explained in the next step.

In the case of the third step for carrying out a system error correction, the measurement data of an unknown measurement object are corrected by the errors of the VNA and the leads.

For the methods ~~according to Claims 1 and 3,~~ which are based on the 10-term principle, the error model in Figure 2 forms the initial basis for the mathematical description of the 10-term multiport methods. For the sake of simplicity, here shall be carried out the mathematical derivation for the measurement of three-ports. This procedure can be generalized to n-ports in a simple manner by providing a changeover switch with n output ports and taking into account ~~of~~ two additional measurement locations for each further port of the measurement object.

In order to determine the traditional error matrices of the 10-term model, a two-port calibration is carried out between each measurement port combination with the error matrices [A], [F], and [G]. The following holds true: $[F] = [B_I]^{-1}$ and $[G] = [B_{II}]^{-1}$.

For the switch position I, the error matrix [A] is the reference port, containing three error variables, for II it is [F] and for III [G]. The two other measurement ports for each switch position contain only the two error variables (e.g.: F_T , F_L) of the transmission error network. The associated variables are subsequently ~~to be~~ deleted once, twice and three times, depending on

the switch position. Consequently, $3*3 + 3*2*2 = 21$ error variables result for the three-port case. The correction calculation of the measured values of the measurement object (m_i) using the 21 error variables can be formulated as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} m'_2 \\ a'_1 \end{pmatrix} = [A'] * \begin{pmatrix} m'_1 \\ b'_1 \end{pmatrix} , \quad b'_2 = m'_4 / F'_T , \quad (2)$$

$$5 \quad a'_2 = F'_L * b'_2, \quad b'_3 = m'_6 / G'_T, \quad a'_3 = G'_r * b'_3 . \quad (3)$$

Rearrangement yields 6 equations for the 6 wave variables $a'_1, a'_2, a'_3, b'_1, b'_2, b'_3$.

The procedure is exactly the same for the remaining switch positions. These $3*6$ equations can be used in the equation.

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & Sx & \\ & & \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

10 In this case, the values of a matrix column are obtained for each switch position, which ultimately leads to a system of linear equations comprising two $n*n$ measured value matrices and the $n*n$ scattering matrix. If this system of equations is resolved with respect to the $[Sx]$ matrix, then the error-corrected scattering parameters of an n -port are available.

For the methods ~~according to Claim 2 and 4,~~ which are based on the 7-term principle, the
15 error model in Figure 2 also forms the initial basis for the mathematical description of the 7-term multiport methods. For the sake of simplicity, here also shall be carried out the mathematical derivation for the measurement of three-ports. This procedure can be generalized to n -ports in a simple manner by providing a changeover switch with n output ports and taking account of two additional measurement locations for each further port of the measurement object.

In order to determine the traditional error matrices of the 7-term model, a two-port calibration is carried out between the reference port with the error matrix [A] and the error matrices [B_i] (i = 1, 2, ..., n). The designation 7-term module stems from the fact that the associate 2*2 error matrices [A] and [B_i] contain a total of 7 error terms since one of the 8 variables contained can always be set to 1.

It is subsequently advantageous to formulate the mathematical formulation of the two-port model in the inverse form of the transmission parameters specified:

$$[G] = [A]^{-1} , [H_i] = [B_i]^{-1} , i = 1, 2 \quad (2)$$

where the following holds true for the inputs and outputs at the error networks:

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ a_1 \end{pmatrix} = [G] \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \\ m_2 \end{pmatrix} , \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_i \\ b_i \end{pmatrix} = [H_i] \begin{pmatrix} m_{2i-1} \\ m_{2i} \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

These equations can be resolved with respect to the a_i and b_i

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} & & \\ S_x & & \\ & & \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

wave variables and be used in the equation. In this case, the values of a matrix column are obtained for each switch position, which ultimately leads to a system of linear equations comprising two n*n measured value matrices and the n*n scattering matrix. If this system of equations is resolved with respect to the [S_x] matrix, then the error-corrected scattering parameters of an n-port are available.

**Calibration method for carrying out multiport
measurements on semiconductor wafers**

List of reference symbols

10	Port
11	Port
12	Port
13	Error matrix
14a	Error matrix
14b	Error matrix
15	Measurement location
16	Changeover switch
17	Source
18	Branch
19	Branch
20	Branch
21	Measurement object

**Calibration method for carrying out multiport
measurements on semiconductor wafers**

Abstract

The invention relates to a method for calibrating a vectorial network analyser having n
5 measurement ports and at least $2n$ measurement locations ($n > 1$) by successive measurement of
the reflection and transmission parameters at different two-port calibration standards, which are
connected between the measurement ports in any desired order and must all have a transmission
path, and three different n -port calibration standards, which are connected between the
measurement ports in any desired order and which are not permitted to show transmission and by
10 calculation of error coefficient and scattering matrix $[S_x]$ with the 10-term or 7-term multiport
method. An object of the invention is to propagate a method for calibrating these vectorial
network analyser used for multiport measurement which permits a calibration with increased
precision and considerable reproducibility of measurement. This problem is solved by the
measurements of a thru standard, which is contacted between each possible measurement port
15 combination, of n known, if appropriate different impedance standards and two unknown, there
selves calibrated reflection standards at a n -one port. (Figure 2)

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for calibrating a vectorial network analyzer having n
20 measurement ports and at least $2n$ measurement locations ($n > 1$) by successive measurement of
the reflection and transmission parameters at different two-port calibration standards, which are
connected between the measurement ports in any desired order and must all have a transmission

path, and three different n-port calibration standards, which are connected between the
measurement ports in any desired order and which are not permitted to show transmission and by
calculation of error coefficient and scattering matrix [Sx] with the 10-term or 7-term multiport
method. An object of the invention is to propagate a method for calibrating these vectorial
5 network analyzer used for multiport measurement which permits a calibration with increased
precision and considerable reproducibility of measurement.